THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) and (b) As per the legal opinion obtained by MTNL from its Attorney, there has not been any violation of the Companies Act, 1956 by MTNL for issue of bonds. The matter is under correspondence between MTNL and the Company Law Board.

PCO's in Remote Areas of Punjab

2191. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to provide Public Call Offices in remote areas of Punjab and extend its telecommunication net work for the purpose; and

(b) whether any time bound scheme has been finalised; and

(c) if *to,* what are the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) to (c) Sir, Public telephones are allotted in all areas of the country to all those who volunteer for the same subject to technical feasibility nad completion of departmental formalities under the franchise scheme. One applicant is provided with one Public Telephone each of local and STD/ISD type.

2850 Local and 1280 STD PTs were already working in Punjab as on 31st March '92 and 600 local and 600 STD PTs are planned to be added by 31st March '93. Besides, STD, PTs have also been provided on all National Highways in Punjab at 50 Km spacing which will be further reduced to 10 Km. gradually.

New Telephone Directories in Madhya Pradesh

2192. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that Telephone i Directories of many Telecommunication Districts in Madhya Pradesh have not been revised and reprinted for the last many : years despite opening of new Telephone i Exchanges and providing thousands of | telephone connections in the State; (b) if so, what are the details thereof;

| (c) whether it is also a fact that supplementary telephone directories have also not been issued to the telephone ! consumers for the last many years;

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when Government propose to issue new telephone directories in Madhya Pradesh and how Government propose to revise and renew new telephone directories and supplementary thereof well in time in the State?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to delay in finalisation of ten ders, award of contracts and failure on the part of the Contractors, Telephone Directoires from 1989 onwards have not been published in respect of the following SSA s/Districts :-

(i) Chambal at Gwalior (ii) Gwalior

(iii) Chhindwara (iv) Sagar (v) Jabalpur.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Supplementary Telephone Direc tories have not been published in some Telecom District due to delay in finalisa tion of tenders, award of contracts and failure on the part of the Contractors. However, the subscribers are notified about the changes in telephone numbers due ta conversion of exchanges etc. sepa rately.

(e) Comprehensive guidelines are al ready available for publication of tele phone directories including Supplementary wherever necessary every year.

The Telephone Directories in respect of (i) Chambal at Gwalior, (ii) Gwalior, (iii) Chhindwara, (iv) Sagar and (v) Jabalpur are likely to be published shortly.